

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A method of preparing a universal base composition comprising dispersing a pigment in a resin that is soluble in both water and organic solvent and wherein:
  - (a) said resin comprises both hydrophobic and hydrophilic monomers;
  - (b) the total weight of the hydrophobic and hydrophilic monomers is at least about 20% of the total weight of the resin; and
  - (c) the weight ratio of hydrophobic monomers to hydrophilic monomers is from about 1/5 to about 5.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the resin is selected from the group consisting of polyester, acrylic, polyurethane, polyamide, and copolymer resin thereof.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the resin is a polyurethane resin.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the total weight of the hydrophobic and hydrophilic monomers is from about 25 to about 35 % of the total weight of the resin.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the weight ratio of hydrophobic monomers to hydrophilic monomers is from about 1/3 to about 3.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the resin is a polyamide resin.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the total weight of the hydrophobic and hydrophilic monomers is from about 40 to about 60% of the total weight of the resin.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the weight ratio of hydrophobic monomers to hydrophilic monomers is from about 1/3 to about 3.
9. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the resin is a polyester.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the total weight of the hydrophobic and hydrophilic monomers is from about 50 to about 70% of the total weight of the resin.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the weight ratio of hydrophobic monomers to hydrophilic monomers is from about 1/3 to about 3.
12. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the resin is an acrylic.
13. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the resin is a copolymer.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the copolymer is a urethane-amide or a urethane-ester.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the resin has an acid number of about 0 to about 300.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the resin has an acid number of about 30 to about 250.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the resin has an amine value of about 0 to about 400.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the resin has an amine value of about 150 to about 380.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the molecular weight of the resin is from about 500 to about 1,000,000.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the resin has a softening point of about 20°C to about 200°C.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein dispersing the pigment is carried out in the presence of additives.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pigment is in presscake or dry color form.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pigment is about 10 to 80% by weight of the universal base composition.

24. (Original) A universal base composition prepared according to the method of claim 1.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing an ink formulation or an ink dispersion comprising:

(a) preparing a universal base composition by dispersing a pigment in a resin that is soluble in both water and organic solvent and wherein:

(i) said resin comprises both hydrophobic and hydrophilic monomers;

(ii) the total weight of the hydrophobic and hydrophilic monomers is at least about 20% of the total weight of the resin; and

(iii) the weight ratio of hydrophobic monomers to hydrophilic monomers is from about 1/5 to about 5; and

(b) dissolving a the universal base composition prepared according to claim 1 into a water or organic solution.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the ink formulation is suitable for laminating applications.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the ink formulation is suitable for surface applications.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the ink can be printed with flexographic, gravure or ink jet processes.

29. (Original) An ink formulation prepared according to the method of claim 25.

30. (Original) An ink dispersion prepared according to the method of claim 25.

31. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the resin is selected from the group consisting of polyester, acrylic, polyurethane, polyamide, and copolymer resin thereof.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the resin is a polyurethane resin.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the total weight of the hydrophobic and hydrophilic monomers is from about 25 to about 35 % of the total weight of the resin.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the weight ratio of hydrophobic monomers to hydrophilic monomers is from about 1/3 to about 3.

35. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the resin is a polyamide resin.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the total weight of the hydrophobic and hydrophilic monomers is from about 40 to about 60% of the total weight of the resin.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the weight ratio of hydrophobic monomers to hydrophilic monomers is from about 1/3 to about 3.

38. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the resin is a polyester.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the total weight of the hydrophobic and hydrophilic monomers is from about 50 to about 70% of the total weight of the resin.

40. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the weight ratio of hydrophobic monomers to hydrophilic monomers is from about 1/3 to about 3.

41. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the resin is an acrylic.

42. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the resin is a copolymer.
43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the copolymer is a urethane-amide or a urethane-ester.
44. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the resin has an acid number of about 0 to about 300.
45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the resin has an acid number of about 30 to about 250.
46. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the resin has an amine value of about 0 to about 400.
47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the resin has an amine value of about 150 to about 380.
48. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the molecular weight of the resin is from about 500 to about 1,000,000.
49. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the resin has a softening point of about 20°C to about 200°C.

50. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein dispersing the pigment is carried out in the presence of additives.

51. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the pigment is in presscake or dry color form.

52. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the pigment is about 10 to 80% by weight of the universal base composition.

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**CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

**ADDITIONAL FEE**

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.